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## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-92. (Canceled).

93. (New) A compound represented by Formula VIII:

R1-X1-X2-X3-R2

wherein:

X1 is 0, Ala, Gly, β-Ala, Tyr, D-Tyr, Asp, or hydroxyacetyl;

X2 is 0, Ala-Gly-T4c-Pro, Ala-Sar-Hyp-Pro, Ala-6ring-, Ala-Asn, D-Asn-D-Ala, D-Asn, γAbu, Gly, Ala, D-Ala, β-Ala, Pamh, Asn, or hydroxyacetyl;

X3 is Tyr, D-Tyr, Gly, Pamb, or Phe;

R1 is H or Ac;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

provided that X1 and X2 are not both 0; and wherein said compound has an amide formed with the C-terminal carboxylic acid, or wherein the C-terminal amino acid of said compound exists as the free carboxylic acid.

- 94. (New) The compound of claim 93, wherein X3 is Tyr.
- 95. (New) The compound of claim 93, wherein X2 is Asn.

- 96. (New) The compound of claim 93, wherein X2 is Gly.
- 97. (New) The compound of claim 93, wherein X3 is Tyr and X2 is Asn or Gly.
- 98. (New) The compound of claim 93, wherein X1 is hydroxyacetyl and R1 is H.
- 99. (New) The compound of claim 93, wherein X3 is Tyr, X2 is Asn or Gly, X1 is hydroxyacetyl, and R1 is II.
  - 100. (New) The compound of claim 99, wherein X2 is Asn.
  - 101. (New) The compound of claim 99, wherein R2 is OH.
  - 102. (New) The compound of claim 99, wherein R2 is NH<sub>2</sub>.
- 103. (New) The compound of claim 93, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>, Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>, hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>, and Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- 104. (New) The compound of claim 93, wherein said compound is hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
  - 105. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
  - (a) a compound of claim 93 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and
  - (b) a pharmaccutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 106. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 105, wherein the compound selected from the group consisting of Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>, Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-OH, hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH, Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>, and Ac-hydroxyacetyl-Gly-Tyr-OH; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 107. (New) The pharmaccutical composition of claim 105, wherein said compound is hydroxyacetyl-Asn-Tyr-NH<sub>2</sub>, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
- 108. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 105, wherein said composition is in a form suitable for oral or parenteral administration.

109. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 108, wherein said form suitable for oral administration is an enteric tablet.